



The MVEer Monthly

April 2012

Josh Umhoefer Named Director On Monday night, March 19, Chapter President Mike Lietke announced that **Josh Umhoefer** is leaving his "interim" title behind and has been selected to be the next director of the Mighty MVE. That night, the MVEer asked Josh for an interview.



MVEer asks: Josh, applying for any position is stressful, but what did you most enjoy or learn during the process of being interviewed to be our next director?

Josh answers: The director selection process forced me to really think about all of the knowledge and experience that I have gained over the last 11 years as a barbershop singer. It was especially reassuring to know that the hard work and preparation that I was putting in each week was paying off in rehearsals. I think most of all I enjoyed how much I learned about myself as a leader and a director - that I have the ability, commitment, and passion to do it!

MVEer asks: The members asked you about your long run goals, but what are a few of your short run goals for the chorus over the next several months?

Josh answers: Some of my personal short-term goals for the chorus in 2012 are:

- ▶ To hold fun, educational, motivational rehearsals and coaching sessions (with Rick, Kim, Sean, Dwain)
- ▶ To have successful Spring and Holiday Shows - both financially and with regard to our singing and performance
- ▶ To give a memorable storytelling performance in Portland, and again at district (with different songs)
- ▶ For the PTeam to release exciting new music for both Holiday and Everyday repertoire

MVEer says: Thank you, Josh. We're excited for you and for our chorus. Congratulations!

3 Top Events coming in April are (1) **Division One Contest** on Saturday **April 14**, (2) expert coaching with **Kim Hulbert Vaughn** on **Sunday and Monday, April 15 and 16** and (3) **Ready, Set, Sing** begins **April 9th** to bring new guys into our chorus.

1. **Division One** contest at Greendale High School. MVE boasts 8 of the 9 quartets entered! Come and cheer on our quartets or volunteer to help on **Saturday, April 14th**. <http://www.loldistrict.org/events/divisioncontests.html>

2. **Kim Vaughn** (<http://kimvaughn.com/>) Welcome back to our very popular singing coach. Since 1985, Kim has been the beloved director of **The San Diego Chorus** (winning Gold in 2002 at International Sweet Adeline's) and she also directs the **Pacific Coast Harmony** (BHS). Kim is one of the most well known and instantly recognized women in the field of barbershop. She has won the coveted International Quartet Champion title three times, and is the first woman to ever do so. She won her first title in 1976 with High Society, again in 1988 with Savvy and most recently in 2001 with a cappella Gold. We always sing our best when Kim is with us as she knows how to get us to ring. Sunday & Monday, **April 15 and 16**. The timing for the Sunday practice is still being determined.



3. **Ready, Set, Sing** - Beginning on **April 9th**, we invite guys to come down to have six voice lessons. Brad Charles is the instructor for the classes. They run over a six week period with a 30-45 minute lesson each week, and each week focusing on a particular area such a breath control, vowel matching, diphthongs, etc. At the end of the class you invite the students to join the chorus to learn two songs, should they choose, that they will be able to sing with us on the show in May.



Book Review: Four Parts, No Waiting: A Social History of American Barbershop Harmony, 2003, by Gage Averill. A great read, superbly written with overtones of academic erudition by a leading ethnomusicologist who studies barbershop much like you would study the behavior of a primitive tribe. Our own **Nancy K. Foris** is richly credited in the introduction. It discusses touchy issues of racial discrimination prior to 1963. The author fully

enjoys interviews with barbershoppers at afterglows. The book includes a rich lexicon of barbershop terms (*whiskey tenor, leaner, pyramid, and a Christmas tree*) as well as a website to demonstrate some music theory points (<http://www.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780195328936/audio/?view=usa>). You'll need both the word *quartet* and *recordings* to listen to the recordings. The title of the book, **Four Parts, No Waiting**, comes from a tradition of men's barbershops with "four chairs, no waiting." A great summer read and a thorough introduction into the various roots of our beloved hobby all the way back to 1830's Austrian four-part close harmony.

FOUR STARS ★★★★★

April 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 MVE Practice at 7PM @ St. Luke's	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 MVE at 7PM @ St. Luke's & <u>Ready, Set, Sing begins</u>	10	11	12	13	14 <u>Division One</u> Contest at Greendale High School
15 <u>Kim Vaughn</u> coaching session @ St. Luke's	16 Coaching 7-10PM with <u>Kim Vaughn</u> @ St. Luke's	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 MVE Practice at 7PM @ St. Luke's	24	25	26	27	28 Quartet Club @ Harmony Inn 10AM
29	30 MVE Practice at 7PM @ St. Luke's	Notes:				

For ideas and suggestions for the **MVEer Monthly**, please contact Dick.Marcus@mve.org.